United Nations A/58/7/Add.22

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 December 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda items 117 (c) and 121

Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.68/Rev.1

Twenty-third report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/58/26) in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.68/Rev.1, which concerns the situation of human rights in Myanmar. The Committee also had before it the information provided in paragraphs 12 to 17 of A/C.5/58/20, on the requirements for the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar. During its consideration of the matter, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, under the terms of paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.68/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to: continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and the people of Myanmar, including all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process in Myanmar; to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixtieth session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution; give all necessary assistance to enable his Special Envoy to implement the resolution and, in the context of the facilitation role, to explore any and all possibilities for discharging his mandate fully and effectively; and continue to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to enable him to discharge his mandate fully.

3. The activities related to the implementation of the request are described in paragraphs 4 to 6 of the statement. Paragraphs 7 and 6 contain information on the

03-64499 (E) 081203

estimated resource requirements. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General estimates the costs of continuing the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General through his Special Envoy for Myanmar at $245,900 for a one-year period (1 January to 31 December 2004). Information is provided in the annex to the statement, including the provision of salary for the Special Envoy, at the rate applicable on a when-actually-employed basis, and for the salaries and common staff costs of one local staff, who would provide support to the Special Envoy.

4. The Advisory Committee further notes from paragraph 8 of the statement that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur falls under the category of activities considered to be of a perennial nature and that provisions for activities of that nature have already been included in the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005, under section 24, Human rights.

5. **With respect to the action required from the General Assembly, as proposed in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.68/Rev.1, a provision in the amount of $245,900 would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2004 for the continuation of the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation of human rights in Myanmar. Those requirements would be charge against the provision of $163.2 million proposed for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005 (see also the report of the Advisory Committee on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/58/7/Add.18, para. 5)).**